

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185679

FOR RCAA-WHITMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT NIAMEY 3041 ACTION LAGOS INFO SECSTATE AND BRUSSELS
31 JUL 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, OTRA, NG

SWMF: NEWELL TRAVEL NIAMEY

BRUSSELS FOR FAA ADMINISTRATOR PACE

1. WHILE FAA REP NEWELL STILL MOST WELCOME HERE AUG. 4
THROUGH 9, HE SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT TIMELY AND APPARENTLY
EFFECTIVE VISIT OF BOEING REPS TO NIAMEY THIS WEEK SEEMS
TO HAVE DIVERTED GON'S INTEREST IN AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM AWAY FROM FAA AND TOWARD BOEING. IN BRIEF, CHIEF
OF STATE KOUNTCHE'S HASTY RETURN FROM KAMPALA OAU SUMMIT
IN A JET FURNISHED BY GEN. AMIN SEEMS TO HAVE UNDERSCORED
TO GON URGENCY OF MOVING AHEAD WITH EXPLORATION OF PURCHASE

OF A BOEING 737 (SEE NIAMEY 2686). ARRIVAL OF 2 BOEING
REPS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH WEST AFRICAN AVIATION LEADERS
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ATTENDING ASECNA CONFERENCE IN NIAMEY THIS WEEK WAS A

HAPPY COINCIDENCE AND SINCE JULY 30 BOEING PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT TALKS WITH AIR FORCE COMMANDER FRANCOIS WRIGHT, WHO IS BOTH THE KEY GON DECISION MAKER IN THIS AREA AND KOUNTCHE'S PERSONAL PILOT. IF ALL GOES WELL BOEING REPS ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT AS PART OF THE EVENTUAL AIRCRAFT PACKAGE. FOR TIME BEING, THEREFORE, IT MAY BE BEST FOR NEWELL NOT RPT NOT TO BROACH THIS PROBLEM WITH GON.

2. GIVEN THE EVENTS IN NIGERIA, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE FEASIBILITY OF NEWELL'S TRAVEL PLANS OR TIMELINESS OF OTHER TOPIC ON HIS AGENDA HERE -- COMMUNICATION LINKS BETWEEN KANO AND NIAMEY AIR PORTS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER TRIP STILL ON.HECK

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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